

## REMARKS

In response to the Final Action dated 8/24/2006, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of this application.

As a preliminary matter, the applicant appreciates the Examiner's thoughtful examination, allowance of claims 9, 11-13, 15, 17-18 and 24, and indication of allowability of claims 20-22 and 34. The Applicant directs its remarks below to the remaining claims only.

Claims 19 and 33 were subject to objection on the ground that the term "metal plating of a least some of the optical fibers" lacked antecedent basis. Those claims have been amended and are believed to be clear as to the metal plating being referred to.

Claims 19, 23, 25, 27-23, and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §35 as anticipated by Nakai et al U.S. patent 4,345,816 (Nakai). The office action interpreted certain claim limitations relating to a metal plating to be structures implied by a process step. Applicant neither concedes nor contests that analysis and instead notes the following. Nakai discloses a region L2 from which the coating of a coated optical fiber has been removed. Col. 2, lines 28-34. The exposed portion is inserted into a metal cylinder 4. An epoxy-system adhesive 5 unites the metal cylinder to the exposed portion of the optical fiber. Col. 2, lines 34-40. Applicant does not see that Nakai discloses a metal-plating in contact with the optical fiber as in independent claims 19, 25 and 33.

Claim 26 was rejected over Nakai in view of Ishiharada et al. U.S. patent No. 5,333,227 (Ishiharada et al.). Claim 36 was rejected over the combination of Nakai and Diaz U.S. patent No. 4,135, 587. The applicant respectfully submits that these objections are now moot and no longer require specific comment.

In view of the foregoing, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any missing or insufficient fee(s) or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-4293 (Case No. 12492.0276).

Respectfully submitted,



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